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LAINE MARRIED LARRY BECAUSE SHE LOVED HIM... BUT SHE ALSO MARRIED HIM TO ESCAPE BOREDOM AND LONELINESS. SHE THOUGHT MARRIAGE WAS GOING TO BE ONE THRILL AFTER ANOTHER. BUT WHEN SHE LEARNED THE TRUTH

She Hated Her Husband!





BUT AS YOU ENTER
THE BABY'S ROOM
YOUR FACE
SOFTENS. HE'S
ONLY SEVEN
MONTHS OLD,
AND ALTHOUGH
YOU HAVE MANY
BITTER
COMPLAINTS,
YOU ADORE
YOUR SON.

As you hold LITTLE BOBBIE YOUR MIND GOES BACK IB MONTHS... TO WHEN YOU FIRST MET LARRY. YOU WERE A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL THEN, REMEMBER, ELAINE...?



HI, I'M LARRY HARRIS--TELEVISION REPAIR MAN. I GOT A
CALL TO DO A JOB HERE.

BUT I CANSHOW
YOU WHERE
THE SET IS.

REMEMBER AS YOU WATCHED HIM WORK, HOW YOU NOTICED HIS STRONG HANDS, AND THE QUICK E FFICIENT WAY THAT HE MOVED...?



REMEMBER, TOO, AFTER HE'D FINISHED HIS JOB, HOW HE TURNED AND GRINNED AT YOU . . . ? THERE, THAT DOES IT / NOW, AS FOR

THERE, THAT DOES IT! NOW, AS FOR YOU, YOUNG WOMAN, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING OUT THERE IN THE HALL STARING AT ME?



BUT THEN YOU HAD TO START LAUGHING, REMEMBER, ELAINE? HE WAS RIGHT... YOU HAD BEEN STARING.... THAT'S OKAY.

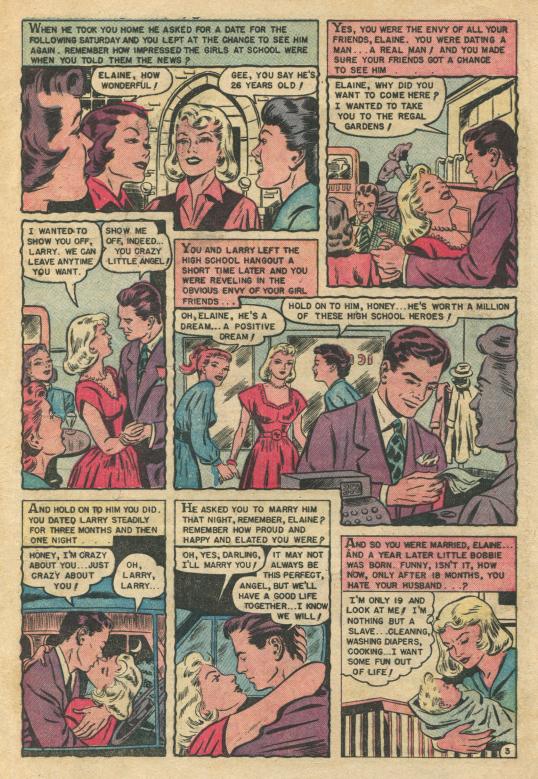
HAHAHA... I'M LOOK, IT'S DINNER
SORRY. I DIDN'T TIME AND YOUR
MEAN TO FOLKS AREN'T
STARE. HOME, HOW ABOUT
GRABBING A HAMBUR-



YOU ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION, DIDN'T YOU, ELAINE? AND YOU HAD A WONDERFUL EVENING, HE WAS SO DIFFERENT...SO UNLIKE THE BOYS YOU KNEW IN SCHOOL.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY WORKING CLOTHES. I WASN'T PLANNING ON BUYING A BEAUTIFUL GIRL DINNER!







BUT IT ISN'T LARRY, IS IT, ELAINE? IT'S SOME OF YOUR OLD HIGH SCHOOL CROWD . . .



YOU AUTOMATICALLY START TO
REFUSE...BUT AS YOU LOOK AT THE
GIRLS AND THE FELLOWS WAITING
OUTSIDE IN AN OLD JALOPY, YOU
CHANGE YOUR MIND...
WHY NOT?
HI,
ELAINE! IT'LL BE
LIKE OLD
TIMES!

IT'LL BE
LIKE OLD
TIMES!



You spend a Marvelous afternoon, don't you, elaine? You feel carefree and young again. AND THE ATTENTIONS OF HANK NOLAN, AN EX-BEAU, DO A LOT TO RELIEVE YOUR INJURED EGO.

IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU PART OF THE GANG AGAIN, ELAINE! I WISH IT WERE FOR MORE THAN A DAY!



MAYBE IT WILL BE, HANK !
THERE'S NO REASON WHY I
CAN'T STILL SEE THE GANG !
JUST BECAUSE I'M MARRIED
DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE I
HAVE TO STAY COOPED UP
LIKE A JAILBIRD !



OH, BOBBIE, HUSH / THE SUN'S GOOD FOR YOU! HERE, KID, BE A MAN ! WEAR THIS. IT'LL MAKE YOU ONE OF THE BOYS!





WHEN YOU AND BOBBIE FINALLY GET HOME IT'S ALMOST DUSK ... AND LARRY IS PACING THE FLOOR, WAITING FOR YOU ...

FOR GOD'S SAKE, ELAINE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I WAS HALF CRAZY WITH WORRY

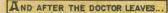


OH, STOP AT THE BEACH... WITH THE BABY BEING ELAINE, WHAT'S THE SUCH A KILL-JOY/ MATTER WITH YOU.. HE'S PER-YOU CAN'T TAKE A FECTLY SEVEN MONTH OLD BABY TO THE ALL RIGHT BEACH! LOOK AT ALITTLE HIM ... HE'S ALL SUN WON'T SUN-BURNED/ HURT HIM /

BUT LARRY DOESN'T LISTEN TO YOU. INSTEAD, HE HURRIES THE BABY UPSTAIRS AND CALLS A DOC-TOR ... AN HOUR LATER

IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS, HOWEVER, I WOULDN'T ADVISE DOING IT AGAIN. A CHILD BOBBIE'S AGE SHOULDN'T BE EXPOSED TO





THIS DOES IT, ELAINE / IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN YOU DIDN'T MAKE A GOOD WIFE, BUT I WON'T LET YOU ENDANGER MY SON'S LIFE !



TOMORROW I'M TAKING THE BABY OVER TO MY MOTHER'S / ANYTIME YOU WANT TO SEE HIM, HE'LL BE THERE ! AND IF YOU WANT TO SEE ME, THAT'S WHERE

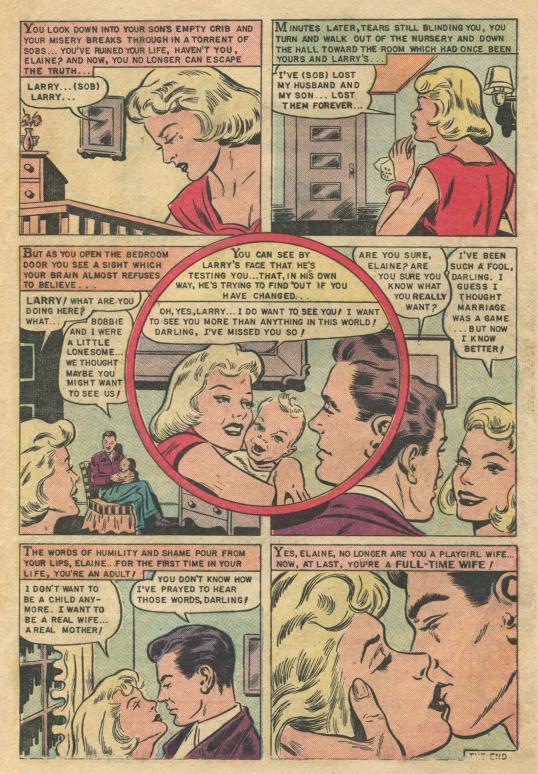
I'LL BE TOO! YOU...I DON'T CARE IF I NEVER LAY EYES ON YOU AGAIN /

BUT DESPITE YOUR ANGRY WORDS YOU FEEL A PANG OF FEAR AND DISMAY, DON'T YOU, ELAINE? SLEEP SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT IT... IT'S ALL

HAPPENED SO FAST ... I. I'M LOSING THEM BOTH .. LARRY AND BOBBIE







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My age is:_____

ALL MY LIFE I WANTED JUST ONE THING: EXCITEMENT/ AND WHEN I FINALLY FOUND IT I DIDN'T KNOW THE PRICE I'D HAVE TO PAY WAS COMPLETE HEARTBREAK/ IT WAS ALMOST TOO LATE WHEN I REALIZED THE PENALTY FOR BEING A _____

THRILL'SEEKER



I LONGED FOR ROMANCE, GLAMOUR, EXCITEMENT / AND AT LAST, FOR A FEW DAYS I WAS GOING TO ESCAPE FROM THE HUMDRUM OF ISMALL TOWN LIFE WHIGH I HATED.

HEY, BRENDA, HEAR YOU'RE GOING AWAY NEXT WEEK! WHERE TO! NEW ORLEANS/ FOR THE MARDI GRAS/ I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR A YEAR TO GET OUT OF THIS ONE-HORSE TOWN FOR A FEW DAYS/



HEY, HAM LIN'S A
NICE LITTLE TOWN/
QUIET, MAYBE, BUT
I LIKE IT/ YOU'LL BE
GLAD TO GET BACK
AFTER YOU'VE BEEN
AWAY AWHILE. BE—
SIDES, I'M GOING
TO MISS YOU!

THANKS, TOM. YOU'RE SWEET. BUT I WANT TO LIVE A LITTLE ! I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE IN HAMLIN AS BORED AND DULL AS EVERY-ONE ELSE ! IT'S DEADLY!













I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT HIM BUT

HIS FIRST NAME ... YET THE NEXT

NIGHT, I AGAIN PLUNGED INTO

THE MAELSTROM OF REVELRY







I WAS NO LONGER AFRAID AS MIDNIGHT DREW

NEAR / OURS WAS NOT JUST A MARDI GRAS



André, my dream gome true, had taken MY LOVE AND FLUNG IT ASIDE LIGHTLY! I LASHED OUT WITH WORDS TORN FROM AN EMOTION STRANGLED THROAT.



I FLED AS MY TEARS BEGAN TO FLOW... AND THE CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT



IF HE CARED HE COULD HAVE FOLLOWED ME / BUT ... (SOB) ... HE DOESN'T CARE / HE WAS JUST PLAYING WITH ME / OH, WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN / I-I'M ... (SOB) ... GOING HOME /



HAMLIN WAS A QUIET REFUGE FOR MY TORN AND BLEEDING HEART / FOR WEEKS I WAS AN EMPTY SHELL THROBBING WITH MISERY AND PAIN .

SMILE, BRENDA/ YOU'VE BEEN DOWN IN THE DUMPS EVER SINCE YOU CAME BACK FROM NEW ORLEANS! HOW ABOUT A DATE !

TOM, WE'VE BEEN RUNNING THROUGH THIS DIALOGUE FOR OVER A YEAR NOW! I SHOULD THINK YOU'D BE TIRED OF THE SAME OLD ANSWERS!



BUT SUDDENLY, IT WAS I WHO WAS TIRED OF THE SAME

OLD ANSWERS BUT WHY NOT? I'VE MOPED WH-WHAT? DID I LONG ENOUGH / HEAR MAYBE IF I WENT OUT AND RIGHT? HAD SOME FUN ... IT'S A DATE The second second BR ENDA WAIT, TOM / PICK ME UP AT EIGHT AT MY HOUSE /

TOM WAS A COURTEOUS, ATTENTIVE ESCORT BUT ALTHOUGH I TRIED HARD TO HAVE A GOOD TIME .

ANDRÉ, ANDRÉ! WHY COULD N'T YOU SEE, BRENDA, THINGS HAVE BEEN YOU CAN HAVE FUN DIFFERENT? IN TAHW, HAMLIN ! TOM ?





But I saw tom again and again / I was lonely and the Love he felt for me was comforting--- but I couldn't forget andré :







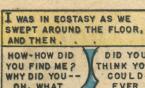




As I PUSHED THROUGH THE CROWDED BALLROOM, I WAS MILES AND MONTHS AWAY, CAUGHT IN THE MERRIMENT AND HEARTBREAK OF MARDI GRAS TIME IN NEW ORLEANS





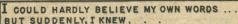


DID YOU THINK YOU COULD EVER ESGAPE ME YOU'RE MINE, BRENDA /









WHO IS THIS MAN, TOM ? DOES HE MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE I DO? DO YOU LOVE HIM?

YES/YES/I DO LOVE HIM! HE'S STABLE AND GOOD AND FAITHFUL! IT -- IT'S ALL OVER WITH, ANDRE / GO



A CLOCK TOLLED MIDNIGHT AS I TURNED AWAY SUDDENLY STRONG WITH THE REALI-ZATION OF MY OWN TRUE FEELINGS.









THE TURNING OF THE WORM

BY DIANE LOWE

A thick drizzle filled the murky air. The famous mud and slime of Korea was at its worst. Dead tired and dirty faced I slogged through the sticky slime, listening to the awful moans of the wounded boys, I thought longingly of the clean, smooth sidewalks of my hometown—solid under one's feet. Romance and love seemed something only for fairy books.

Covered with mud, my once blonde curls plastered damply on my cheeks, I returned with a load of wounded—and then came face to face, for the first time, with a trim, clean figure, the new medic, Capt. John Brent. It was strange that I, Vicky Carroll, should suddenly think of what a mess I looked. Suddenly, I longed to be clean, trim, looking my best.

No there's nothing romantic about life in Korea. It's dreary hard work—bloody and heart-breaking. I had volunteered as a nurse because I wanted to use my training where it would serve the greatest good. Romance was farthest from my mind. In fact when I observed how most of the nurses primped for their infrequent dates and fluttered about like debutantes on their evenings off, I felt only amused contempt. But that was before Capt. Brent arrived at our post.

When the tall, lean officer was introduced to the staff of nurses, I couldn't help but smile at the exchange of glances. This time I really couldn't blame them. Even I could feel a sense of excitement in the presence of a winning, magnetic personality, not yet touched by Korean squalor and dirt and blood. The combination of boyish charm and quiet authority was just the quality that makes susceptible females "ga-ga."

At dinner that evening the whole subject of conversation was the new doctor, and I was annoyed with myself for being so interested—and so disturbed. That night, exhausted after a strenuous day, I looked in my little mirror and studied the tired lines around my eyes. "Just fatigue lines," I assured myself. "A little rest, and they'll go away."

A mental image of John Brent was looking at me from the mirror, "Wh-why do I think of him now?"

I wondered. "And why so concerned about my looks?"

I had to laugh at myself. Was I going soft and romantic after mocking the other girls all this time? Not exactly, but I was a girl and I still reacted to an exceptionally appealing male. But romance? Ridiculous! None of us knew anything about Capt. Brent—he might be a perfect monster with a glamorous exterior. Besides, I wouldn't stand a chance against all those experts I'd been observing all these months. I hadn't been on a date for so long that I wouldn't know how to act. In the looks department, back in the States I knew I wasn't so bad. All I needed now, I thought was a rest, some coldcream and powder and lipstick—and a good shampoo. My figure used to rate whistles at home. Maybe it could still look good in a real dress.

This sudden preoccupation with a handsome male irritated me. I plunged into my work with added zeal to remove the frivolous thoughts that had been distracting me, and to prove to myself that work was my real purpose here—work with the wounded and ill.

But matters got worse with me. The more I worked with John Brent and saw his skill, his understanding of the wounded boys so far from home and family, the more admirable, the more desirable he became.

He constantly requested to have "Miss Carroll" assist him and the other nurses teased me about it. "Now we know why you're so tireless, Vicky," Grace Henry said one day in mocking tones. "You wanted to be indispensible to Capt. Brent. And you certainly are!" I also heard some of the stage whispers, "Lucky that Vicky's so plain. He'd never date her." I found a strange comfort in the next remark: "If Vicky ever started to think about her appearance, I bet she could be attractive to a man."

That remark was encouraging, but I had no time to think about myself. The grim tasks of war filled my days and nights. At the end of a job I'd fall into bed too tired to think of my looks—but not too tired to dream of Capt. John Brent. Although his manner toward me was always professional, doctor to nurse, soldier to soldier, it was comforting to ob-

serve that the other nurses made no progress with him either. They were good nurses, and conscientious, but they had their lighter moments—and men played a big role at that time. One or two were exceptionally pretty, and could twist a man round their little finger. But Capt. Brent was impervious to their wiles and completely indifferent to me.

The silent competition for Capt. Brent came to a head in an unexpected manner. One early morning, there was a knock on each door, bringing us nurses sleepy-eyed to the pitting room. The colonel, together with Capt. Brent and some other officers, faced us.

"Sorry to awaken you, ladies," the C.O. began, "but we need volunteers for an urgent mission. Two airmen crashed on a small atoll ten miles offshore. Capt. Brent is going there and needs a nurse to help. He'd like Miss Carroll to volunteer, if she will. This is not an order, as the mission is highly dangerous."

Naturally, I went. A tiny motor launch let us off at the atoll with instructions to flash a green light if it was safe to return and pick up the two wounded—if they were still alive and then us—if the Gooks weren't around. The launch would then come back for the two of us upon the second signal—since it was small and had to move slowly and cautiously in these dangerous waters.

Capt. Brent and I found the airmen, badly hurt, but alive. Rapidly, in the dim light of a foggy dawn, we tended them. It was a tense and gruelling experience, but Capt. Brent and I worked in complete accord and understanding, as we always had done. Twice, he looked at me and smiled gently. I smiled in return. He could never guess how my heart throbbed: Funny, in all the blood and dirt of war I had fallen deeply in love with John Brent. It was painful to realize how unaware he was of me—except as an aid—a nurse.

Whispering, John instructed me to stand on the designated spot close to shore and flash the green signal left there. The two airmen could be picked up now. When the small launch arrived the wounded were placed carefully on board. After speaking to Capt. Brent, the helmsman shoved off.

John looked at me a moment then told me that the boat would return for us—unless it become too dangerous. But we would wait till nightfall and then signal with the green lantern if we were sure it was safe; the red if any Reds turned up. If they did we would have to hide.

Those hours of daylight spent on the little atoll sped away. John and I talked softly, laughing softly and huddled together several times when we thought we heard enemy boats approach, fearfully close to our hiding place-and relaxed once gagin when the sounds drifted into the distance. At nine o'clock that night he said, "Vicky, I think it's safe now to signal them to come and get us. We can flash the green light now and I want you to know you're a wonderful girl. This island adventure—was -well, you made it a pleasure." John's words thrilled me deeply, but I felt a pana of disappointment. It had ended too soon-before-before-anything could happen. Now they'd come and take us away -and break the spell, I was desperate for this man I didn't want to leave.

But there was nothing that could be done. "Yes, John. I feel that way, too," I answered. We took to using each other's first names quite naturally. "I'll run down and flash the green light," I offered. "You can cover me if any Gooks show up. I know just where it is."

Then I went back and we waited for the little launch. John put a firm arm around my shoulders—"Let's stay close, Vicky. We'll keep warm. Say, it's eleven o'clock! Wonder why they don't come for us. Maybe the enemy's still lurking."

"That's a terrible thought," I replied.

I felt a pressure of his strong fingers as the tightened on my arm. "That doesn't sound like the brave Nurse Carroll—Are you afraid?"

Turning toward him, I looked deep into his eyes before answering. Then "No—not with you, John," I said softly.

We were very close. His head moved toward mine and his lips gently touched mine. Impatiently, I put my arms around him and our kiss became deep, thrilling. Now, I knew John was in love with meall mine.

"You know, don't you, that I'm in love with you, darling," John said, huskily.

"How wonderful," I murmured, lost in unbelievable ecstasy.

"It's a miracle that they didn't come for us—we've had time to discover each other," John gloated.

Some day I shall tell him about that miracle—that I had flashed the RED light. I had played with danger but now, I was ready to flash the green one.

KNEW IT WAS A GAMBLE ... A CALCULATED RISK! MY FATHER, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE PAROLE BOARD, STRONGLY DISAPPROVED. MY OWN EXPERIENCE AS SECRETARY ON THE PAROLE BOARD STAFF WARNED ME AGAINST IT. I KNEW I WAS LETTING MYSELF IN FOR GRIEF ... HEARTBREAK ... WHEN

I fell in LOVE with an EX-CON



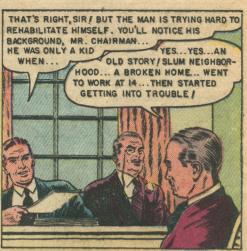
I was too shocked to call out, they were taking Joe away again. I'd lived in such fear of this moment.. and now it was happening, suddenly I felt DIZZY.. SICK / I MADE A DASH FOR HOME..



THE BIG BLACK HEADLINES... JOE'S PICTURE ON THE FRONT PAGE... THE DISGRACE FOR HIM... THE SHAME FOR ME / I NEEDED NO PAPER... I WANTED ONLY TO BE ALONE... TO THINK... TO WONDER WHY.















I BELIEVED HIM! IT WAS IN HIS EYES



AS THE DAYS WENT BY I FOUND MYSELF THINKING MORE AND MORE ABOUT JOE FENTON. .

CONNIE, HERE'S THE MONTH'S PAROLE LIST. HAVE IT PROCESSED AND SENT OUT AT ONCE.







TONEVER FIGURED ON THIS. LUNCH WITH AN EX-CON! I WAS DOUBTFUL... BUT HIS WARM SMILE AND HIS SINCERE MANNER WON ME OVER. I ACCEPTED.

I FIRST GOT INTO TROUBLE AS A KID. I LIVED IN A BAD NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE. NOBODY'S FAULT BUT MY OWN. BEFORE I COULD STRAIGHTEN OUT I STOLE



I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO TELL ME HIS STORY, BUT HE DID IT SO HONESTLY, HIS EYES SEARCHING MINE... AS THOUGH SEEKING SUPPORT AND COMFORT.

YOU DON'T BUT I WANT TO...I
HAVE TO WANT YOU TO KNOW.
TELL ME WELL, I DID SIX
ALL THIS,
MONTHS FOR STEALING
JOE. THE CAR. THEN...



JOE FINISHED HIS STORY AS WE WALKED BACK TO MY OFFICE...

I WAS AFRAID OF LOSING ALL I HAD. SO I WENT ON THE JOB... WAS CAUGHT RED-HANDED/

IT'S ALL OVER NOW,
JOE. YOU'LL MAKE
GOOD NOW. I KNOW
YOU WILLY

THE BOARD GOT JOE A JOB DOING CONSTRUCTION WORK ON STATE ROADS. HE BEGAN GOING TO SCHOOL AGAIN, STUDYING ENGINEERING. AND HE REPORTED FAITHFULLY



FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS THAT'S AS FAR AS IT WENT. AND THEN, ONE DAY, JOE ASKED ME FOR A DATE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CONNIE? OCAN'T YOU GO OUT WITH ME? TIS IT BECAUSE OF MY PAST?

OH, JOE... I DON'T MEAN TO HESITATE, YOU KNOW THAT. YES, JOE... I'LL



AND SO I WENT OUT WITH JOE THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY NIGHT. DAD WAS STUNNED WHEN MY ESCORT CALLED, BUT HE SAID NOTHING UNTIL I GOT HOME.

I DON'T WANT MY BUT DAD ... DAUGHTER GOING HE'S PAID HIS OUT WITH EX-DEBT TO CONVICTS . YOU SOCIETY, ISN'T CAN'T TRUST IT YOUR JOB TO HELP SUCH THEM ! MEN RETURN TO NORMAL LIVES ?

IT CERTAINLY IS ... BUT I DON'T WANT YOU INVOLVED, YOU'RE NOT TO SEE THIS FENTON AGAIN, CONNIE! DAD, YOU'RE NOT FAIR TO HIM. HE'S TRYING TO MAKE GOOD! I'M SORRY... BUT IF I CAN HELP HIM BY GOING OUT WITH HIM I'M GOING TO DO IT /

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER DEFIED MY FATHER, WE HAD A BITTER QUARREL. BUT ON MONDAY, WHEN JOE REPORTED, WE HAD LUNCH TOGETHER .

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO QUIET! WELL .. I UNDERSTAND, CONNIE . I ... GUESS I WON'T BE SEEING YOU AGAIN !

> YES, JOE ... YOU WILL/ IT'S NOT RIGHT ... BUT I'LL HAVE TO MEET YOU IN



AND SO WE SAW EACH OTHER ... OFTEN / WE DIDN'T LIKE THE SECRET FURTIVENESS OF OUR MEETINGS . BUT SOMEHOW THEY DREW US CLOSER AND CLOSER TOGETHER . . . UNTIL .

OH , JOE ... JOE ..



JOE WAS SETTLING BEAUTIFULLY INTO AN HONEST LIFE AGAIN. HIS PAROLE REPORTS WERE EXCELLENT. SHOULD I TELL DAD I WAS SEEING HIM? ONE DAY. .

WHY ... JOE / THIS IS THURSDAY / WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE

YOUR FATHER CALLED



WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT ? WHEN JOE FINALLY CAME OUT HE RUSHED RIGHT BY ME . .



FROM THAT MOMENT ON, JOE STOPPED SEEING ME. I COULD ONLY GUESS AT WHAT HAD HAPPENED, DAD MUST HAVE FOUND OUT I'D BEEN SEEING JOE . THEN HE'D CRACKED DOWN WITH ALL HIS AUTHORITY, WHAT ELSE COULD BE THE REASON 2



THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO ... SPEAK TO MY DAD.



And that was that / dad would say nothing more / and as for joe... He reported on monday mornings. Also said nothing... and abruptly left. No more luncheon dates... No nothing...



A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE CONFERENCE WITH TOP POLICE OFFICIALS WAS HELD, I SAT IN AS SECRETARY

BY CHECKING ON OUR PAROLEES' ACTIVITIES, INSPECTOR, WE'RE LEARNING THAT IT'S PINKY ADAMS' GANG THAT'S BEHIND THESE RACKETS!



FROM THAT MOMENT ON, MY THOUGHTS WERE IN A WHIRL

THE PINKY ADAMS GANG.. THE GANG JOE WAS MIXED UP WITH / HIS PAROLE REPORTS.. WAS HE FOOLING US...I DON'T SEE HIM ANY MORE...IS HE IN WITH



I FELT SICK ... EMPTY ... HURT. WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO JOE? DAD WOULDN'T TALK . THEN, ONE EVENING .

CONNIE, VIC HENRY WANTS
TO SEE YOU. WHY DON'T YOU
GO OUT WITH HIM? HE'S GOING
PLACES. THAT ASSISTANT D. A. /

YES...WHY NOT/ HE'S SO CONCEITED HE'LL TELL ME ANYTHING. MAYBE I CAN FIND OUT



THE NEXT DAY VIG HENRY CALLED FOR SATURDAY NIGHT. HE TOOK ME TO THE 7-II CLUB, THE FASTEST PLACE IN TOWN.

A LOT OF THESE PEOPLE LOOK VERY SUCCESSFUL, VIC. DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THEM 2

> CONNIE -- BUT HALF OF THEM ARE GOING TO LAND IN JAIL BEFORE LONG! LIKE PINKY ADAMS AND HIS GANG



THEY DON'T KNOW IT, OF COURSE... BUT I'LL HAVE MY GASE READY AGAINST THEM SOON. I'LL SHOW THIS TOWN A THING



JOE / JOE AT THE 7-II CLUB ... WITH PINKY ADAMS / HOW COULD HE... IF IT WEREN'T TRUE ?

SMALL TIME PUNK,
THIS FENTON. I PUT
HIM AWAY BEFORE...
I'D. ER...
LIKE YOU TO
I'LL DO IT AGAIN. MEET TRIXIE



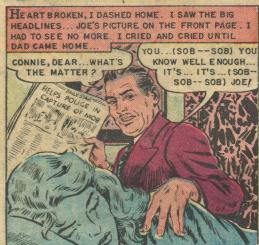
SO IT WAS TRUE! JOE WAS BACK WITH THE MOB. I FELT ILL. I WANTED TO GO HOME, THEN, IN THE PARKING LOT.

PRETTY SOON, TRIXIE, I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF DOUGH. THEN YOU. AND ME ARE GONNA DO

















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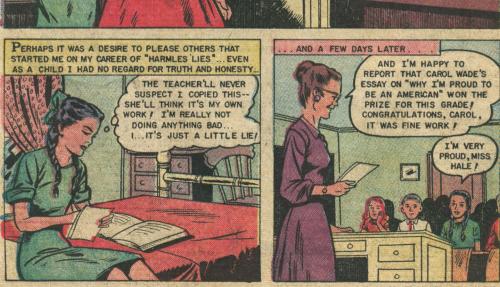
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MY TERRIBLE CONFESSION







DON'T WORRY LOOK AT ALL THESE SWEATERS! ABOUT IT. IT'LL TAKE US CAROL / YOU HOURS TO FINISH CAN LEAVE AND I'VE GOT A EARLY / I DATE TONIGHT! DON'T HAVE ANY WE'LL NEVER BE PLANS FOR THROUGH IN TIME. TONIGHT / I DON'T MIND LUCY / STAYING LATE! I MET MY DATE THAT NIGHT AND LUCY STAYED...AND THE NEXT MORNING . . .

MORNING

SAY, YOU MUST BE A MAGICIAN, MISS WADE! I SEE ALL THE SWEATERS ARE READY TO GO ON SALE!

ON SALE!

BUT I WANTED TO HAVE THEM ALL FINISHED FOR YOU!

I APPRECIATE IT, MISS WADE! WE DON'T HAVE MANY GIRLS WHO ARE AS DEPENDABLE AS YOU... AND DON'T I DON'T THINK I'LL FORGET IT! WANT ANY BEFORE LONG REWARD, MR. HOWARD / I'M I MAY HAVE ONLY INTER-A SURPRISE ESTED IN FOR YOU! DOING A GOOD JOB FOR VOGELS!



MY HEART THUDDED STRANGELY AS I LOOKED AT BRUCE/HE WAS THE HANDSOMEST MAN I'D EVER SEEN/I BARELY HEARD MR. HOWARD'S WORDS

STORE AT KEMTOWN IN RETURN
FOR YOUR WORK HERE AT VOGEL'S,
WE'RE OFFERING YOU THE JOB OF
HEAD OF STOCK IN
THE NEW STORE!
OH! OH,
YES! I'LL
TAKE THE
JOB!

... MR. FISCHER IS OPENING THE NEW



THE NEXT TWO WEEKS PASSED IN A FRENZY OF ANTICIPATION. MY DELIGHT AT MY NEW JOB WAS SURPASSED ONLY BY MY INTEREST IN BRUCE. MY THOUGHTS CONSTANTLY RETURNED TO HIS HANDSOME FACE AND WIDE GRIN.

I GUESS I'M THE







OUR LUNCHEON
CONVERSATION
WAS LIMITED
TO BUSINESS...
YET, SOMEHOW,
I KNEW WE
WERE
DESTINED
TO BE
MORE THAN
BUSINESS
ASSOCIATES









BRUCE STOPPED THE CAR. AND SUDDENLY I WAS IN HIS ARMS! THE BLOOD RACED IN MY VEINS AS HE SAID.































AT LAST IT WAS OVER ... AND I RETURNED







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Age.....

Amount you want to borrow \$...



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